

foreigner. In the most important suits you will never see the speaker move his head or his hands, or make the least inflexion of his voice, which may discover him more animated at one time than another. If he is cast, without anger he refers the matter to another court; until he has exhausted all the means of appeal. Their political dissensions assume every day a more violent character.

The Americans are not generally attached to their relations, to whom they seldom afford any assistance. It is not extraordinary to see the brother of a man of fortune in the greatest distress. Their love is always strongest for their youngest child, and disappears when he reaches his twelfth year. When he is removed from school, enough has been done for him; he must then go and provide for himself how and where he is able.

This want of concern originates in the law which deprives the parents of all authority over their daughters at fifteen, and their sons at twenty. Nature wishes us not to be too strongly attached to those objects which are soon to escape us, and to whose happiness we cannot directly contribute. Among all animals she has proportioned the cares of the parent to the wants of the offspring, and has ordained that the attachment of the former shall only cease when the latter do not require assistance. The savage nations observe this law, who forget their children, and are forgotten by them as soon as they are able to procure food and clothing by their arrows.

Such is the general character of the inhabitants of the coasts of the United States, which gains them few friends among strangers, or those that trade with them. There is a great consumption of tea, which is served up four or five hours after dinner. The Americans eat their meat boiled or roasted, and follow, in every respect, the English manners.

Every day convinced me that the women have fewer faults and more virtues than the men. Balls, plays, promenades, and the toilet, entirely occupy their attention. If a young man becomes captivated with a lady, before he thinks of marrying her, he must provide her with every pleasure, and be accessory to all her whims. Certain that their pleasures will terminate on the day of their marriage, they defer it as long as possible, and only yield to the solicitations of their lovers when they are in dread of losing them. I have heard several American ladies answer, to the most sincere declarations of affection, and to most advantageous proposals of marriage, that they had not yet had time to know the world and its amusements; and that they would not retire without having enjoyed them.

The young people are free when single, but slaves when married. Entirely employed in domestic affairs, they only